

Wyman-Gordon Company, Grafton Plant
Loewy 50,000-Ton Forging Press
244 Worcester Street
Grafton
Worcester County
Massachusetts

HAER MA-82-C

HAER
MASS,
14-GRAF,
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
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WYMAN-GORDON COMPANY, GRAFTON PLANT
50,000-TON FORGING PRESS
HAER MA-82-C (Page 1)

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

50,000-TON FORGING PRESS
HAER MA-82-C

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Location: 244 Worcester Street, Grafton, Worcester County,
Massachusetts.

Date of Construction: Completed 1955.

Present Owner: Wyman-Gordon Company.

Present Use: Forging press.

Significance: The Wyman-Gordon Forging Press, along with a similar press owned by the Alcoa Company of Cleveland, Ohio, represents the culmination of many years' attempts to build heavy presses. Motivated by Cold War fears and the demand for new aircraft in the Korean War, the United States Air Force instituted a "Heavy Press Program" during the post-World War II years. The program aimed to create presses large enough to make magnesium parts for new aircraft designs.

This press was designed and built by the Loewy Construction Company. The new manufacturing capabilities of this type of press considerably broadened the range of materials and structures available for use in aircraft. Heavy presses made it possible to forge extremely large, complex pieces essential to the structural systems of modern jet-powered aircraft. Despite its bulk, the press is a flexible production tool, allowing the manufacture of many different types of precision parts.

Source: "Dedication Program, National Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmark, the Wyman-Gordon 50,000-Ton Forging Press, Thursday, October 20, 1983," published in New York City by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, 1983.

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ADDENDUM TO
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